

SENATE—Tuesday, April 5, 2005

The Senate met at 9:45 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Our Father, in whose patient hands the mighty seasons move with quiet beauty, we acknowledge today our great need for Your guidance. Lord, we are challenged by complexities that require more than human wisdom. We sometimes feel like children grasping in the darkness, lost without light.

Bless this Government of the people, for the people, and by the people. Guide its leaders to strive to possess that righteousness that exalts a nation and to inspire others to pursue truth. Enlighten the Members of this body with Your wisdom, lest the darkness of our times hide the paths of Your providence.

We commit this day to You, Lord, for You are able to do exceedingly, abundantly above all that we can ask or imagine, according to Your power, working in and through each of us. We pray this prayer in Your holy Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable TED STEVENS led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, there will now be a period for the transaction of morning business for up to 60 minutes, with the first 30 minutes under the majority leader or his designee and the second 30 minutes under the Democratic leader or his designee.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today we will have a period for morning business

for up to 60 minutes. Following that hour for debate, we expect to begin consideration of the State Department authorization bill. We have not yet locked in that agreement, but I am hopeful we will be able to reach a consent agreement shortly. Chairman LUGAR is ready to proceed with the bill. We hope to make substantial progress during today's session.

Under the order last night, we have scheduled a vote for 4:45 p.m. today on the adoption of a resolution relating to Pope John Paul II. I anticipate we will have additional votes today on amendments to the State Department bill.

Also this evening, once we complete our business for the day on the State Department legislation, we will have a 70-minute period for debate on the issue of Social Security. I encourage all Members to remain for this important question-and-answer period.

I also remind our colleagues that on Wednesday, there will be a joint meeting of the House and Senate to receive an address by Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko. That address is scheduled for 11 a.m. Senators should be in the Senate Chamber at 10:30 so we may proceed to the Hall of the House of Representatives.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Florida is recognized.

HONORING POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, this morning, as the world has taken notice of the passing of Pope John Paul II, I rise to speak. I know the Senate today will be taking a resolution to speak to the issue of the Pope's passing.

As a person of the Roman Catholic faith myself, I thought it important and appropriate that this morning I take a few moments to speak to the greatness of this man and the contributions he made not only to enriching the faith life of those of us who practice the Roman Catholic faith, but to the people of the world as a great statesman and moral leader.

Pope John Paul was one of the remarkable people of our times. His papacy lasted 26 years, which is the third longest in the over 2,000-year history of our church. But it was during tumultuous and difficult times. Pope John Paul was prepared for this papacy, prepared for this mantle of leadership through tremendous hardships in his life. As a young person, he lost his mother very early in life, only to be followed by the very dramatic loss of his only brother, and only a very few years later the loss of his beloved fa-

ther. So at a very young age, as a very young man, Pope John Paul was left alone in the world without any close family. He developed a long and strong network of friendships that he maintained all through his life, and even through the days of his papacy.

In addition, the Pope's youth was tempered by living under tyranny, by the fact that in his youth he had to be subjected to the tyrannical occupation by Germany of his Polish homeland and the persecution of people such as himself—people of faith.

In addition, once that was over and he began to seek his vocational pursuit in the priesthood, he had to do so underground, because subsequent to the German occupation and the Nazi regimes, and immediately thereafter, it was followed by the Communist takeover of Poland. Eastern Europe, as we all know, became engulfed and contained by what came to be known, in the words of Sir Winston Churchill, as the Iron Curtain, with Poland falling behind the walls of that Iron Curtain, where religion was suppressed, faith was not to be practiced openly, and where he could not attend seminary openly. He would have to do it in an underground fashion.

The Pope's preparation for his priesthood and his papacy was forged in the difficult times that he faced not only personally but also in his life as a citizen of Poland. It then fell upon him to be Pope at a time when the world was undergoing change, and at a time when the people of his beloved Poland were energized as no other in history by his papacy and his theme of "be not afraid." His trip back to Poland in the early years of his papacy was punctuated by his remarkable reception by the people of Poland—people thirsty for freedom, thirsty for an opportunity to end the yoke of tyranny and communism. So the papal visit was a transcending moment in the history of Poland. As we now know, it was a transcending moment in the history of our world because it did signal the beginning of the end of Communist rule in Eastern Europe.

We know Pope John Paul worked closely with several U.S. Presidents but none more closely than President Ronald Reagan, in those crucial years when the Cold War came to a head, and when we saw the beginning of the fraying of what was a failed system, a system that had only been maintained through terror and fear. His theme of "be not afraid" began to be heard and responded to, and the people of Poland began that surge toward freedom, which was inevitable in all of Eastern